

Ajit Pai, Chairman
Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
Brendan Carr, Commissioner
Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington DC, 20544

RE: MB Docket No 05-311 In the Matter of Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992

I am writing in support of the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA”) in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making. I oppose the tentative conclusions the FCC reaches in the proceeding because of their impacts on my community.

I am a dedicated member of the Rogue Valley Community Television staff, and despite my short time on the job, I understand the immense value of community television. Here in the beautiful Rogue Valley of Oregon, our community access station is the core of the community for many people, including education and faith groups. This resource gives American citizens the opportunity to exercise their right to free speech. Furthermore, it gives many people in our community something to enrich themselves for little to no money in a place with increasingly high costs of living. From my time on staff I have heard so many accounts of community members saying that our studio is the thing which keeps them grounded. For a few I’ve talked to personally, the TV station was their way out of major depression issues. This includes myself. I believe that it is extremely critical that this resource remain in place, for the consequences of it going away would be extremely dire for this community.

This local presence encourages viewers in the Oregon Rogue Valley (Ashland, Medford, Grants Pass, Eagle Point, Talent, Phoenix, Central Point, and the countryside population in the spaces between) to watch cable television as was intended by the 1984 Cable Act— by enhancing local voices, serving local viewers, and strengthening our local democracy. RVTV was essentially the backbone of Jackson County’s elections this last cycle. By defining “in-kind” support in an overly broad fashion, the rule making will shift the fair balance between local and state authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between finance fees and PEG channels which was never the intent of the Act.

By allowing cable operators to reduce franchise fee support for local communities if they opt for local channels, the FNPRM diminishes the ability of PEG channels to serve communities such as ours. We ask that it not be adopted.

My faith in the American Experiment is almost completely eroded with the recent affairs on this continent and abroad, and frankly if this act passes, I see it as the last drop of true freedom and democracy left in the country draining away.

I know I am not alone in this feeling.

Please make the right choice and protect our freedom and democracy by not adopting 05-311.

Thank you,
Keegan Van Hook,
Programming Assistant, Rogue Valley Community Television